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No. 10.

# Let Me Pass

By George M. Rosener.

A Street Corner Caricature for Vaudeville, Written for  
Straight Man and Comedian (Eccentric or Char. Comedy).



ADOLPH E. REIM,

Publisher,

MILWAUKEE,

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# LET ME PASS

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SCENE—A *Street*.

(*At opening the Straight enters from Left, the Comedy from Right*).

*Straight*—Hello!

*Comedy*—Hello!

*Straight*—Where are you going?

*Comedy*—I'm in a hurry, please don't stop me! Let me pass!

*Straight*—What's the matter?

*Comedy*—My mule is dying!

*Straight*—What is he dying of?

*Comedy*—He is dying of lonesomeness and must have company, the doctor says so.

*Straight*—He must have company, eh, well what are you going to do about it?

*Comedy*—I am going to take him to your house.

*Straight*—Do you mean to insinuate that I live in a stable?

*Comedy*—Do you?

*Straight*—Do I what?

*Comedy*—Do you need a biscuit? Please step to one side and let me pass.

*Straight*—Are you crazy?

*Comedy*—Yes, are you?

*Straight*—Yes. I mean no!

*Comedy*—You mean yes you don't know.

*Straight*—Look here! I want to know where you are going.

*Comedy*—I am going to a foreign country.

*Straight*—Where is that?

*Comedy*—(Name some local town). Where are you going?

*Straight*—I am going to see my girl and find out which is the best day to get married on.

*Comedy*—I can tell you that.

*Straight*—All right! Now which is the best day to get married on?

*Comedy*—Your wedding day. Let me pass now!

*Straight*—Are you trying to make a fool of me?

*Comedy*—No, I am trying to cure you. Stand aside and let me pass or I shall scream for help!

*Straight*—You don't pass here until I get some sense out of you!

*Comedy*—How can you say that after all we have been to each other? (*Takes out a handkerchief and weeps*).

*Straight*—Now what are you crying for?

*Comedy*—I am crying for that poor girl sitting down there in the park.

*Straight*—That poor girl sitting on the bench and crying as if her heart would break?

*Comedy*—Yes, that poor girl sitting on her heart and crying as if the bench would break.

*Straight*—What is the matter with her?

*Comedy*—Her mother just told her that she is going to marry again.

*Straight*—So her mother is going to marry again? Why don't the poor girl go home?

*Comedy*—She can't!

*Straight*—Why not?

*Comedy*—She can't go a step father!

*Straight*—Say look here, I want to tell you something! Do you hear I want to tell you something?

*Comedy*—Well chalk up and shoot! This game costs money.

*Straight*—If you try to make a fool of me I will beat you until you are black and blue!

*Comedy*—You will?

*Straight*—Yes I will!

*Comedy*—Have a care, My name is Smith and for that reason I can have you arrested!

*Straight*—What for?

*Comedy*—For blacksmithing.

*Straight*—For blacksmithing?

*Comedy*—That is what I said! A blacksmith is a forger, is he not?

*Straight*—Yes.

*Comedy*—Then if you are a blacksmith you must be a forger, so have a care, your days are numbered! Oh, propinquity!

*Straight*—What is that last word you used?

*Comedy*—Propinquity!

*Straight*—Do you know the meaning of that word?

*Comedy*—Of course, I do! Do you?

*Straight*—Certainly!

*Comedy*—Then, why do you hap-hazard me about it?

*Straight*—Why do I hap-hazard you? Do you know what you are talking about?

*Comedy*—Do I? Well I should be rather surprised if I was.

*Straight*—I want you to tell me the meaning of the word propinquity.

*Comedy*—Propinquity?

*Straight*—Yes, propinquity!

*Comedy*—You are sure you don't mean Pinky, because that's the name of my dog?

*Straight*—You used the word propinquity. Now tell me the meaning of it.

*Comedy*—Propinquity means: Vera la mucha de killa espanola de sen ta lalalala poof.

*Straight*—What do you call that?

*Comedy*—I am telling you the meaning of the word propinquity.

*Straight*—You are?

*Comedy*—Yes, I am telling it to you in Spanish.

*Straight*—Well, you tell it to me in English.

*Somedy*—It is just the same in English.

*Straight*—Well, let's have it!

*Comedy*—Propinquity is er-er-er-er, it is a new kind of bottled beer.

*Straight*—My boy, your ignorance is paramount!

*Comedy*—Hey, cut that out! That is something I won't stand for.

*Straight*—What do you mean?

*Comedy*—You can't tell me I have a parrot's mouth!

*Straight*—I said paramount!

*Comedy*—Oh! I misinformed you.

*Straight*—Now let me explain this to you so you won't parade your ignorance before the public again!

*Comedy*—You talk just as if you had something to sell.

*Straight*—Propinquity, my dear boy, means nearness of association, in other words "close to," etc. For an example, if you associated with me long enough, you would gradually come to know almost as much as I do, you would by and by begin to imitate my very fine manners and speech. Then you could say, propinquity did it.

*Comedy*—Oh, he would be to blame, then?

*Straight*—Exactly!

*Comedy*—Now let me understand this, so you won't go parading in public again. Propinquity means that, if I hung out with you long enough, I would catch whatever you had, is that it?

*Straight*—Now you have it!

*Comedy*—Will you please turn your face the other way?

*Straight*—Why?

*Comedy*—Propinquity and I are taking no chances.

*Straight*—What's that?

*Comedy*—I said; do you know how we can have a fine lark?

*Straight*—No. How?

*Comedy*—Buy one at the bird store. You let me pass or I shall call my brother!

*Straight*—I want to ask you one more question. I am writing a play and want to know where I can get a good plot. Do you know?

*Comedy*—Yes, in the cemetery.

*Straight*—The longer we stand here, the bigger fool you seem to get.

*Comedy*—Propinquity!

*Straight*—WHAT?

*Comedy*—Don't you dare to strike me! Don't you dare, you big lobster!

*Straight*—Did I understand you right Did you call me a lobster?

*Comedy*—If the shell fits you, wear it!

*Straight*—Well, I'll be——

*Comedy*—Don't, don't tell me that kangaroos are dying out. For years they have been on their last legs you know.

*Straight*—What do you mean by that?

*Comedy*—If you was an all right fellow you would know.

*Straight*—Well, am I not all right?



*Comedy*—No, half of you is left. With this child in my arms I defy you to strike me!

*Straight*—You think you are smart, don't you?

*Comedy*—My dear Clemintina, remember a boil in the pot is worth two on the neck.

*Straight*—I have no more time to waste on you, I must be off to my yacht club.

*Comedy*—Do you belong to a yacht club?

*Straight*—Indeed I do!

*Comedy*—Have you any yachts?

*Straight*—I had two, but I have only got a bark now and—

*Comedy*—Keep away from me! Keep away from me!

*Straight*—Why, what's the matter?

*Comedy*—Propinquity is the matter! You have a bark and I am taking no chances with the hypophosphites.

*Straight*—A bark is a ship dummy.

*Comedy*—Oh, a dummy ship!

*Straight*—No, just a ship. One of them I had to get rid of, she was a dandy, but I went broke on her and I had to throw her over. Poor thing, I thought a lot of her too! Why sometimes she acted like a human being. I felt sorry for her, but it couldn't be helped. Ah, she was a grand old rag, I almost loved her!

*Comedy*—Did your wife ever find it out?

*Straight*—I am not married.

*Comedy*—Then why didn't you marry the girl?

*Straight*—You make me tired!

*Comedy*—Did you ever try Coca Cola?

*Straight*—Listen, I want to tell you about this skiff of mine. She was ninety feet over all and she had a fifteen foot beam and carried a hundred tons.

*Comedy*—Is that the same one you threw over?

*Straight*—Yes.

*Comedy*—(*Feels the Straight's arm*).

*Straight*—What are you doing?

*Comedy*—Nothing. Go on with the story! (*Aside*). A hundred tons and he threw her over.

*Straight*—What did you say?

*Comedy*—I say, can't you bring that hundred tons down a little, I could swallow it easier?

*Straight*—Keep quiet and listen to me!

*Comedy*—(*Aside*). Propinquity! I might get that way too, I think I will stand over here!

*Straight*—What are you doing over there? Come here!

*Comedy*—No, I can hear you just as well over here. Go on with the lie.

*Straight*—What?

*Comedy*—I mean story!

*Straight*—As I said, I entered her in the race.

*Comedy*—The fat woman's race?

*Straight*—No, a boat race! And believe me it was some race!

*Comedy*—Oh, I believe you. (*Aside*) A hundred tons and he threw her over.

*Straight*—I was on the shore and I signaled the bark. You know, of course, how to signal a bark.

*Comedy*—Certainly!

*Straight*—How do you signal a bark?

*Comedy*—You pull his tail.

*Straight*—Exactly!—No, you fool this is a boat!

*Comedy*—I thought you said it was a bark.

*Straight*—Same thing.

*Comedy*—Proceed Anannias!

*Straight*—When they were about a mile from the shore, I signaled the bark to lay too.

*Comedy*—How long does it take a bark to lay too?

*Straight*—Oh, about ten minutes!

*Comedy*—That's funny!

*Straight*—What's funny?

*Comedy*—If it takes a hen all day to lay an egg, a ship can lay two in ten minutes.

*Straight*—Oh, cut it out!

*Comedy*—Lend me your knife.

*Straight*—As I was saying.

*Comedy*—As you said.

*Straight*—The bark was making about thirty knots an hour.

*Comedy*—Thirty knots?

*Straight*—Thirty knots.

*Comedy*—My, what a tangle!

*Straight*—First she went thirty knots, then 31, then 32, then 33,

34, 35, 36, 37, 38, she kept on running up and up and up and——

*Comedy*—And then she fell back and sprained her tongue.

*Straight*—Confound you!

*Comedy*—Now you have said enough! You let me pass instantly!

*Straight*—What are you trying to start here?

*Comedy*—Trying to start?

*Straight*—Yes, trying to start?

*Comedy*—Well I declare, you are quite a joke! Indeed you make me laugh— Ha! Ho! He! Once more I request you to let me pass.

*Straight*—Suppose I should refuse?

*Comedy*—So you are plotting against me. I shall call an officer. Do not for one moment think there are none about who are not asleep. There is one down there. (*Calls off stage*) Crystal! Crystal!

*Straight*—Why do you call that policeman, Crystal?

*Comedy*—Because he is always on the watch. Come one step nearer and I'll screech!

*Straight*—I think you're crazy.

*Comedy*—I know you are!

*Straight*—What?

*Comedy*—I know you are a gentleman, except when you are in drink, and then, Genieve you are positively brutal!

*Straight*—You are brainless!

*Comedy*—That's right, strike me! Strike me! I will not say you nay.

*Straight*—Will you cut this out?

*Comedy*—I will, if you will answer me one question.

*Straight*—Well, what is it?

*Comedy*—What is it that smells the most when you go into a drug store?

*Straight*—Carbolic acid.

*Comedy*—No sir!

*Straight*—Then what does smell the most?

*Comedy*—Your nose. Please let me pass, or I shall die of mortification!

*Straight*—You will be murdered if you hand me anything like that again!

*Comedy*—Listen Moon in the Face! Do you know the first thing

the Indians said when Columbus discovered America?

*Straight*—Now, that's a good, sensible question, but I must confess I am all at sea.

*Comedy*—So was Columbus.

*Straight*—What?

*Comedy*—One step nearer and I shall pierce the air with screams of violence. I asked you if you knew what the first words were that the Indians uttered when Columbus discovered America? And you act like this, I am sure I gave you no encouragement, whatever.

*Straight*—Will you tell me what those first words were that the Indians said, when Columbus discovered America?

*Comedy*—Certainly!

*Straight*—What were they?

*Comedy*—They were these five little words. Mercy, we have been discovered! Don't come near me, I have a concealed weapon that you know not of! Listen, Swiss Cheese, did I ever tell you about the race I was once in with the good ship Hinkee Dee?

*Straight*—No, you never did.

*Comedy*—No? Then unfold your ears and listen. It was in the year 9244, that the Hinkee Dee and The Lady Bug ran a race off Sandy Hook. The old Hinkee Dee was a fine old ship, in fact, she was the best I ever saw, and when she was feeling fine, she could drink more beer than anything else in her line. We were fifty miles ahead of the Lady Bug, with only twenty-five thousand more to go, when the old Hinkee began to fall back. I noticed that she was breathing hard. "Cap," she said, "Cap, I can't go on." "Why?" yelled the captain. "Because," she cried, "My mainmast has the cramps and I have a pain in my lee scuppers." The captain was furious and he kicked her in the port side. "Avast, my boom, spanker and shiver my midship," shouted the captain. "I'll have the same with a plate of French fried on the side," I yelled. I was only wishing that the six o'clock whistle would blow, so that we could all go home. Of course, a dollar is a lot of money, when you are broke, and if I knew he was that kind of a man, I should never have spoken to him. Yet, I never in my life saw a lady who could catch so many fish, and as for ducks, the place was alive with them, and more wild horses than I ever saw. You know my mother never lets me out after nine o'clock, and as for reading the papers, why, it sometimes removes your corns and

sometimes they fly away before you can get a good shot at them. There was cannons in front of us and cannons upstairs, also. Someone had made an awful mistake. "Water!" cried Hinkee Dee. "Why, you are in it!" yelled the captain. "How foolish of me," she echoed. We had only one more block to go. If we win this fight, I'll die," I said, and the conductor punched my ticket. Then the crowd in the grand stand began to yell. Hinkee Dee rapped out a triple. She got to first, she sailed to second and she flew to third. "I can't go on," she cried. "Try it," yelled the gang. "Slide," I shouted. "Slide!" She slid. Great Heavens, she slid on her keel and won the race!

*Straight*—That's enough, you can pass!

—THE END.—

*Note*—This act can be opened or closed with a song, if desired.

When it is played rapid fire, as it should be, it will run about twelve minutes.



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